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**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AWARDS ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY  
ROBERT GOLDMAN THE BURKE AWARD FOR CULTURAL PROPERTY  
PROTECTION**

PHILADELPHIA – Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Goldman today received the 2006 Robert Burke Award for his work in helping to protect the cultural heritage of the United States. The award was presented by Herbert J. Lottier, C.P.P., Director of Protection Services at the Philadelphia Museum of Art at the National Conference on Cultural Property Protection in Washington, D.C.

Beginning in 1988, Goldman teamed up with FBI Special Agent Robert K. Wittman to investigate museum and art theft. In 1996, they brought the first prosecution under the new Theft of Major Artwork (Theft from Museum) statute, resulting in the first federal convictions under this law. Based on their prosecutions, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of prosecutions brought under this statute enacted to protect our national treasures. Goldman was named in November 2005 by the Department of Justice as Special Trial Attorney assigned to advise the newly created FBI Art Crime Team (ACT) with its mission of combating the growing trade in stolen art, antiquities and cultural property. Since then, he has been instrumental in the ACT's successful recovery of more than \$50M worth of art and cultural property in St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Florida, Philadelphia, Copenhagen and Tokyo.

"Bob Goldman and Bob Wittman are not just investigating and prosecuting cases, they are preserving this country's heritage and the access of future generations to our history," said Pat Meehan, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

In prosecutions resulting in the convictions of more than thirty defendants, Goldman has successfully recovered objects of cultural significance including items belonging to Geronimo, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Andrew Jackson, John Brown, William Penn, Gettysburg commander General George Meade, and 19th Century Arctic explorer Dr. Elisha Kent Kane. Goldman also assisted in the recovery of a gold presentation box given to attorney Andrew Hamilton in 1735 for successfully defending editor J. Peter Zenger in the landmark freedom of press/libel trial. Also recovered was art work of Daniel Garber, Mary Cassatt, Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, Francisco Goya, Peter Brueghel, and others. In the past six years, Goldman has been involved in the recovery of more than \$150 million worth of stolen art and cultural property. He has trained law enforcement in the United States, Russia, Belgium and Peru. He has participated in providing seminars and lectures to museums and the public concerning the protection of art, antiquities, and cultural property.

Presented annually at the National Conference on Cultural Property Protection, the Burke Award recognizes individuals whose accomplishments and impact on the cultural property protection community merit significant recognition by their colleagues. The honor was created in 1994 in memory of Robert Burke, founder and first director of the Office of Protection Services at the Smithsonian Institution.

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